

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT	Changes in Foreign Trade Policies of Ferromet, Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Corporation		DATE DISTR. 9 November 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. There are definite indications that Soviet orders have been greatly reduced for products exported by Ferromet, Czechoslovak foreign trade corporation for the export and import of metallurgical products. Because of this reduction in Soviet orders, two factories in Slovakia have had to be closed down. The USSR has cancelled completely its iron pipe orders from Czechoslovakia.
2. Czechoslovakia is currently trying very hard to sell iron rails, concrete reinforcing rods, and steel plate to the Netherlands. This is in sharp contrast to the Czech policy in 1952. when the Czechs would not have been willing to sell such items. Curtailment of Soviet orders from Czechoslovakia is the sole cause for this change.

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